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Best Wishes at the New Year

2014 a Year in Review Below

The Bethel Citizen

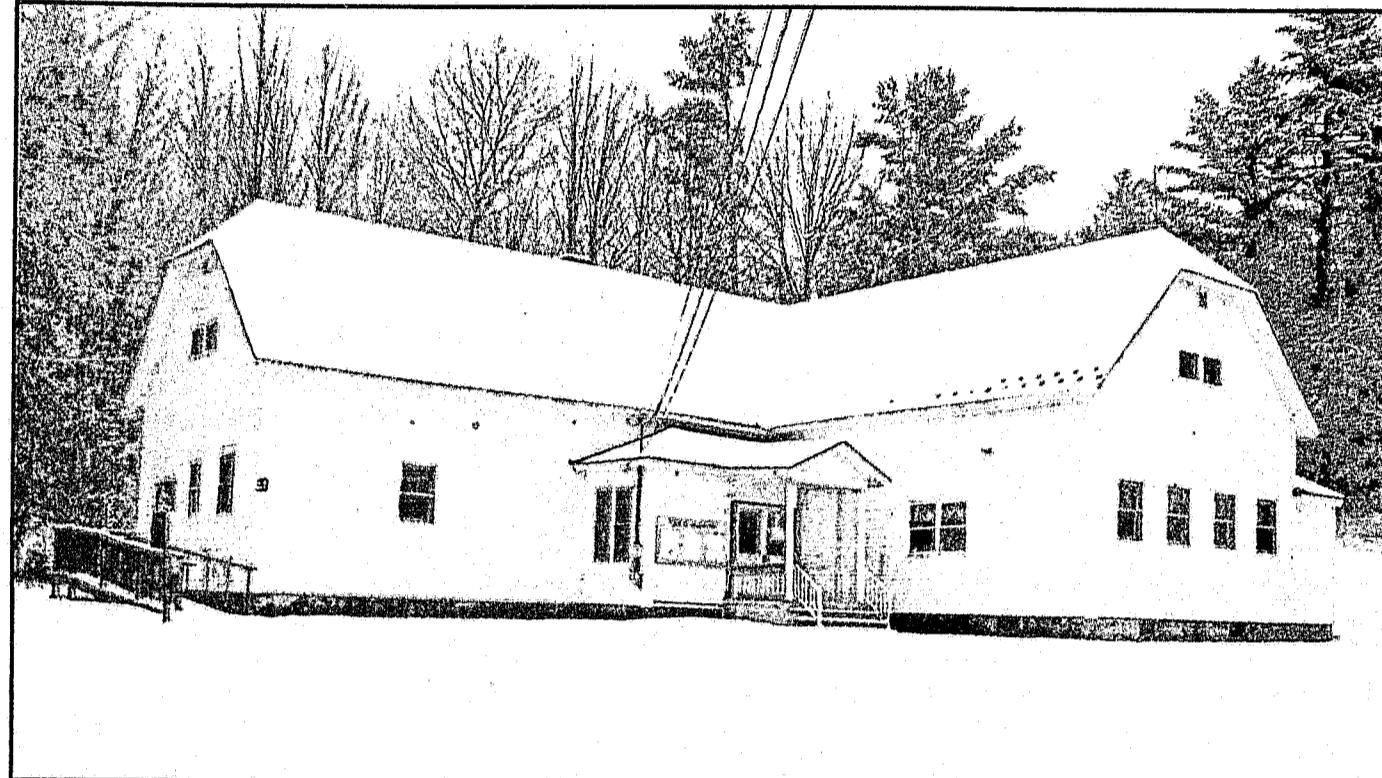
Vol. CXX - No. 1

Thursday • January 1, 2015

75¢ a Copy

Serving Bethel and neighboring communities in the mountains of western Maine

Greenwood building sold; to be torn down



The former Greenwood Town Office building was purchased from the town recently for \$11,000. Nick and Janet Bartlett, owners of the Northern Roots Grow Supply store next door, are the new owners. Nick said they plan to take the building down by early April and then build a new store on the site. The property totals about three acres, he said. Before it became the Town Office, the building served as a school. One section was built in 1890, another in 1913, and a third in 1932, according to Blaine Mills of the Greenwood Historical Society. It ceased to be a school in 1983. *File photo*

Jan. 5 marks 200th anniversary of U.S. Mail delivery in Bethel



The postal desk used by Dr. Moses Mason beginning in 1815. *A. Aloisio*

When Bethel residents get their mail on Monday, it will be the 200th anniversary of U.S. Postal Service delivery in the town.

Before that time, the closest place to get mail delivery was the Post Office in Waterford.

The first Bethel postmaster was Dr. Moses Mason, whose house on Broad Street is one of two museums operated by the Bethel Historical Society.

According to the History of Bethel by William B. Lapham (published in 1891), "The doctor often remarked in after years, that the most exciting moment of his life was when he heard the post-rider's horn and knew that the first regular mail was about to arrive at Bethel Hill."

The History describes mail delivery at the time:

"The amount of mail matter brought into town was very small at that time

when compared with what is brought now. No daily paper was then published in the State, and comparatively few weeklies.

Stationary was expensive, postage high, and the people too busy to do much letter-writing.

Nevertheless, the weekly communication with the outside world by means of the post-rider was pleasant, and an important era in the progress of the town.

These post-riders were generally very obliging, and for a small remuneration would distribute the mail matter all along their route.

For instance, before leaving Waterford for Bethel, he would take from the Waterford office papers and letters belonging to persons residing on the way, and just before reaching a house,

a shrill blast from his tin horn would announce his

approach and indicate that he had something for its inmates."

See Mail, Page 1

Snail named after local veterinarian

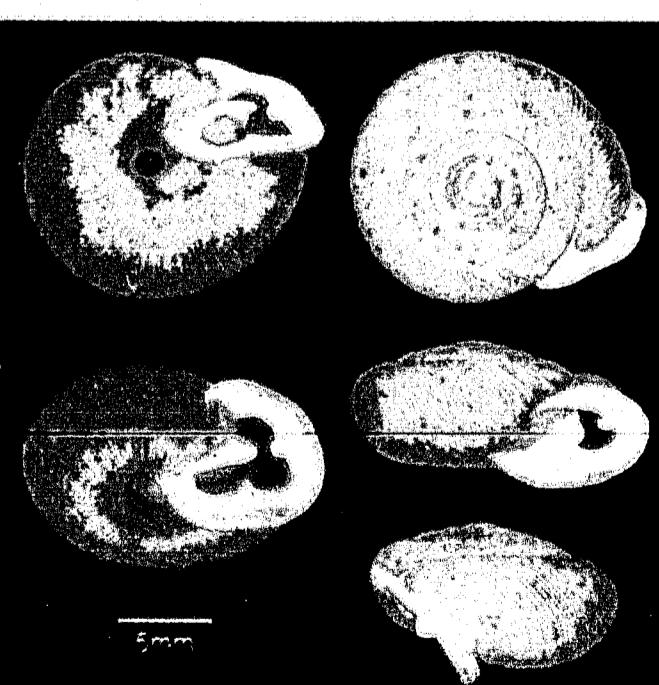
A newly-discovered form of land snail has been named for a local animal doctor, according to a press release.

Mary "Robin" Gorrell, DVM, now shares her name with the snail 'Triodopsis juxtidentis robiniae,' found in southern West Virginia. Dr. Gorrell is originally from West Virginia, and enjoys outdoor adventures with her family and black Labrador dogs. She is part of the team at Bethel Animal Hospital.

The land snail subspecies, whose common name is the Brush Creek Threetooth, was named for Dr. Gorrell by her husband, conservation biologist Ken Hotopp. His environmental consulting company is Appalachian Conservation Biology.

Triodopsis juxtidentis robiniae is a forest-dwelling land snail approximately the size of a dime. The description of this snail form, discovered by Mr. Hotopp in a tributary valley of the upper Bluestone River, has been accepted for publication in the online journal 'Zootaxa.'

Land snails are shy and graceful creatures, popularized most recently in the book 'The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating,' by Maine author Elizabeth Tova Bailey. They are important in forest ecosystems, where they help create soil, feed larger animals, host wildlife parasites, and move the nutrient calcium up the food chain.



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Note on this week's paper

Because our usual day of publication (Thursday), is the New Year's holiday, this Jan. 1, 2015, issue of the paper was published and distributed a day early.

The
Bethel
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2014

Continued from page 1

Veterans' park plans proceed

A veterans' park that has long been in the planning stages took a step forward in the fall when legal issues connected with its proposed location - behind the Civil War monument on Main Street in Bethel - were settled. A volunteer committee had originally planned for a veterans' honor roll area near the Fire Station, but shifted its focus when the Main Street site was acquired by the town. With the legal concerns resolved, the committee is proceeding with serious planning and fundraising.

Sewer bill change prompts protest

An adjustment in sewer billing for some multiple-unit properties in Bethel brought protests from owners who felt they were unfairly targeted. The charges were applied to dwelling units that had previously not been billed by the town, despite being required to be under town ordinance requirements, according to town officials. While newer construction has, according to the town, been billed by individual dwelling unit as the ordinance requires, some older properties, such as apartment buildings, were still being charged as a single unit. The town last year searched out those buildings/units and brought their billing structure up to date under the ordinance, the officials said. At year's end a group of property owners affected was preparing a plan of action to oppose the change.

Mail

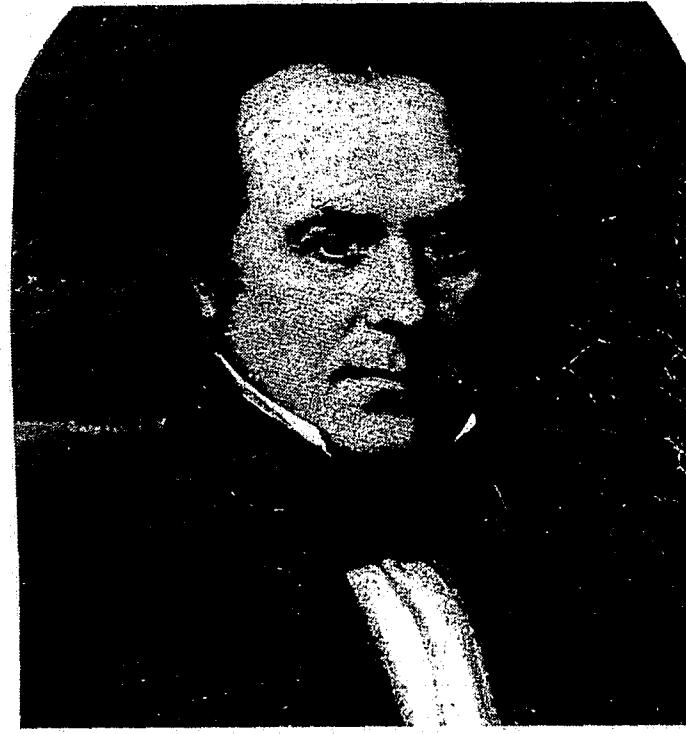
Continued from page 1

Mason served as postmaster in Bethel from 1815 to 1833, operating out of his home. Randy Bennett, executive director of the BHS, believes the office was likely located in one of the front rooms of the house.

In 1833 Mason was elected to the U.S. Congress and was succeeded as postmaster by his brother-in-law and next door neighbor, O'Neil Robinson. The Robinson House is also a BHS museum.

The large postal desk used by Mason is on display at the Mason House. The society plans an observance of the 1815-2015 anniversary in the summer. Bennett said the re-enactment of the arrival of mail on horseback will be the featured event.

"We need a horse that's not frightened by the tin horn," he said.



Dr. Moses Mason.

Bethel Historical Society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. We hope our readers will regard the newspaper as a public forum for discussing a topic they believe to be of interest to the community.

Insofar as possible, we attempt to publish letters without alteration, but we do reserve the right to edit for length, libel, taste and readability. Letters should be limited to 300 words, but that limit will be waived when the situation warrants.

When writing, please include your full name, signature, address and telephone number (so that we may verify authorship).

The deadline for letters to the editor is 4:30 p.m. Monday. Letters submitted after that deadline will be considered for publication when circumstances permit.

Send your letters to: Editor, Bethel Citizen, PO Box 109, Bethel, ME 04217-0109. Fax: 824-2426. E-mail: news@bethelcitizen.com.

The Bethel Citizen

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Advertisers should check their advertisements. The paper shall not be liable for failure to publish an advertisement, nor for a typographical error, or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the advertisement for the first time insertion. The paper will reprint that part of any advertisement in which an error occurs.

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Deadline for town, club and organizational news items is Monday at 4 p.m. Advertising deadlines: Real Estate and half page ads or larger: Friday, Noon. Display and Classified ads: Monday at 4 p.m.

The publisher reserves the right to reject, or edit any material offered for publication.

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Subscribers - Let us know if your address changes! Call 1-800-922-6397 or (207) 824-2444

Letters**CHRISTMAS FOR FAMILIES 2014**

To the Editor:

We would like to take this time to give a big THANK YOU to all that have made this another successful year in helping others. The list is so very long it would be hard to name them all. We would like to give a very special THANK YOU to Rooster's Roadhouse and their customers for their great donation and Maine Street Realty for all you have done over these many years. Over the last few years we are receiving donations from people that we helped in the past, which is so very nice to know that we were able to make a difference and they remember. We do raffles, benefit Bingo and a food sale at the Locke's Mills American Legion. The Ladies Auxiliary at the Locke Mills American Legion puts together Christmas stockings for the children.

Even in these times the community and visitors have found a way to help others in our special town. We have been doing this project in Bethel for 35 years now. Every year we are so pleased to have an amazing bunch of people that help by donating their time, energy, money and gifts to make this all happen. We try to keep confidentiality in these matters.

Our elves are happy to do this and try to make others a better Christmas then they might have had. We do try to send blankets, warm clothes (hats, mittens, PJs, long johns, jackets and other clothes), boots (when we have enough money to buy them), reading, board games, Christmas items and toys (some large and some small) also we send things for the parents. One year someone brought us things for the pets in the families. We try to let them wrap by sending them paper, tape, tags and even bows when we can. We never know what we will have for sure but we always make it work to our very best.

This year we have helped 80 families, 223 children plus their parents.

Again, thank you one and all know that you are all special for all the sharing. Have a Happy New Year and we wish you all the best.

Nina Wheeler
Christmas for Families

Our Back PagesBY DANNA BROWN
NICKERSON

10 years ago: Members of the Telstar Athletic Boosters made 57 new banners representing the 82 sports championships won by Rebel teams over 35 years, and hung them in the gym.

About 400 people turned out for the seventh annual New Year's Bethel.

Deaths: Harry W. Archer, Neil Gilbert, Sudie Lee Vachon, Andrew B. Bartlett, June Wallen Demarest.

20 years ago: Heather Hale and David Nivis opened the Good Food Store in Mayville. Aerobic exercise classes were being offered at the Bethel Area Health Center with instructor Lee Ferreira.

Births: Destiny Dannielle Long, Hannah Leigh Lyon, Cody James Smith.

Deaths: Ken J. Kennagh, Beatrice H. "Bea" Soule, Leroy N. Ryerson.

30 years ago: Groan & McGurn opened an outlet store at 1 Main Street in Bethel, next to Edelweiss Country Store.

A record number of skiers flocked to Sunday River over the Christmas/New Year's vacation week bringing business to Bethel merchants.

Deaths: Mrs. Elsie B. Wilken, Mrs. Margaret L. Learned, Mrs. Alice M. Cameron,

40 years ago: The Greenwood fire department moved its equipment into their new building near the Howe Hill road.

Upton's correspondent Arline Bernier reported a lot of snow machine and cross country skiing activity in that area.

Birth: Jennifer Rebecca Boyce.

50 years ago: The trailer home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gaudreau and family on the Bog Road was gutted by fire.

P.H. Chadbourn & Co. was advertising 1965 Ski-doos at prices from \$295 to \$995.

Birth: Katrina Marie Roberts.

Deaths: Mrs. Elva Farrar Holt, Forrest S. Churchill, Ernest C. Herrick, Elmer Howard.

60 years ago: About 30 voters of the Bethel Village Corporation met at the Community Room and decided to dissolve their organization, subject to favorable action by the Legislature and the Town of Bethel.

The Lucky Clover 4-H Club met at the home of their leader, Mrs. Marguerite Bartlett.

Birth: Jeanne Sue Bachelder.

Deaths: Mrs. Ida Martin, Theophilus James Judkins, George Henry York, Mrs. Ella A. Wight.

70 years ago: Bethel Service Club packed 93 boxes for overseas service personnel and 87 for those in the States.

Four people from Oxford County attended Income Tax School in Portland, which was conducted by the Internal Revenue and the Maine Extension Service.

Deaths: Henry Stearns, Mrs. Lura Cole Trumbell.

80 years ago: The Village Corporation put a new ceiling in the rooms occupied by George A. Mund Post. The Legion and Auxiliary were having the rooms papered and painted.

With a fall of 30 inches or more of snow within a week, Bethel's tractor and truck plows had been in constant operation.

Death: Mrs. Edith Skillings Hutchinson.

90 years ago: The general store, ell, and stable of Mr. and Mrs. S.B. Newton, East Bethel, were burned.

Ray Crockett was driving a 1909 Ford which he had converted into a winter car. The wheelbase had been shortened 14 inches, runners substituted for the front wheels, and heavy chains on the back tires.

Deaths: Mrs. Perley Raimey, Sam Grover, Frank Chandler.

110 years ago: Prof. W.S. Wight returned to Aroostook County to continue instruction of classes in vocal music.

A social dance, under the auspices of the Bethel Athletic Association, was held at Odeon Hall.

Deaths: Martha B. Chapman, Charles B. Bessey, William B. Russell.

Local & Legendary**MAINE IN THE CIVIL WAR**

BY CHRISTINE LANDES

As always, it is my pleasure to provide this bi-weekly column for the citizens of Bethel. With short holiday weeks, I always find it productive to work on tying up the little things from past projects, as opposed to starting any new.

The Smith Farm Road Bridge project has been started. As you may or may not be aware, this is the bridge connecting Bethel to Mason Township. The engineer has been on site looking at the topography, determining flood level stages and conducting some boring test sites to determine the material below the surface. This project will be funded by the Town of Bethel, Oxford County and the State of Maine.

The Route 2 bridge resurfacing plan is in the design phase. The plan will include new decking, new railings and the overall appearance of a wider bridge. The travel way will be 11 to 12 feet wide and the bridge will also include a 4 to 6 foot shoulder. The preliminary design report will be presented to the Board of Selectmen in February/March 2015. Bids for the construction will be advertised in the fall of 2015 with an estimated project completion of spring 2016. This project is fully funded by the State of Maine.

I recently met with David Murphy, Superintendent of SAD 44 and Matt Ruby, Head of School for Gould Academy. I must say the youth of this area have some amazing opportunities in their education! I am open to any suggestions from the schools, the educators or our citizens on how we are able to team up as a community and work together for the benefit of these students. Raising our children to value the rallying spirit of a small town will only produce better citizens in the future.

On Jan. 8 and 9, Stantec (Airport Consultant) and I will be meeting with a few select abutting land owners near the airport. At this meeting the owners will be able to ask questions about the upcoming tree trimming that will be occurring on their land. Trimming the large trees will allow for the approach and takeoff of aircraft to be much safer. If this project interests any other citizens of Bethel, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Office.

On Dec. 18 the existing Sign Committee was asked to meet to talk about some of the issues/concerns regarding the Sign Code. Unfortunately, we only had one member in attendance, The CEO, the committee member and I did get the chance to talk about what we believe to be some technical clarifications. Two members of the public in attendance also spoke of their frustration with the code. If any citizens are interested in serving on this committee, please feel free to contact me, the Town Clerk or any of the Board of Selectmen. We would certainly welcome some new members.

The town also has vacancies on other boards. I encourage every person to involve themselves in local government. I found it to be very rewarding! You will not only learn about processes in municipal government, you will meet some of the amazing neighbors you have in this community. Would you consider volunteering for a board?

In the upcoming New Year I want to wish each citizen good health, prosperity, happiness, many successes and inner peace. If there is anything I, or the employees of the town, can do for you please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here for you. Happy New Year!

NEWS AND PHOTOS

The Citizen welcomes submissions of news items and photographs from local clubs and organizations. When submitting photographs, please identify the nature and date of the activity, the names of everyone shown in the photograph, and the name of the photographer. Please also provide the name and telephone number of a contact person.

Submissions can be dropped off at The Citizen office or mailed to P.O. Box 109, Bethel, ME, 04217, or e-mailed: news@bethelcitizen.com.

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Thursday, January 1, 2015

The Bethel Citizen

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The Way I See It

BY SHARON BOUCHARD

From the TWISI Archives:
Somewhere in the universe there is a vast wasteland of missing things. Floating in infinity are millions of unmated socks, gloves and earrings as well as other cherished possessions. I'm sure of this.

I have yet to figure out where the land of the matchless and the missing is or how lost objects get there, but I just know it has to exist.

Over the many years of my life as a housewife and mother I couldn't even begin to estimate how many laundry loads of washing and drying I have done. A very conservative guess would be four loads a week. So that's 208 loads a year for 32 years of marriage equals 6,656 loads of laundry.

It's probably more like double that figure but for the sake of argument, let's say I've done about 7,000 loads of laundry in my adult life. That's 7,000 times that I've taken fewer socks out of the dryer than I put in. WHERE DO THEY GO?

My earrings are another such item that falls prey to the invisible kleptomaniac, especially my expensive ones that I dearly cherish. By expensive, I mean the ones that I paid more than \$2 for. The earrings that I buy in bulk don't seem to get separated with the same frequency as the good ones. I tried to organize the earrings once by getting an earring tree. But now the earring tree has a lot of empty branches. So - WHERE DO THEY GO?

Shoes seem to walk off into never-never land every now and then too and when my daughter was a little girl her barrettes were clipped all too often. I can understand how a barrette or an earring can slip into a crack or fall behind a toilet tank, but shoes are a little too big to be kicked under the doormat. So - WHERE DO THEY GO?

Whoever or whatever commits these acts of larceny doesn't limit it just to breaking up matched sets of things. Every year when I unpack the Christmas decorations there is always something missing that I know I packed the previous year. Same thing happens when I unpack summer/winter clothing. There are always fewer items to be unpacked than were originally packed. So - WHERE DO THEY GO?

The way I see it, there is a planet out there somewhere in our universe inhabited by aliens with one foot, one hand and one ear. They visit our world, making themselves invisible, moving freely about helping themselves to whatever they want taking their stolen stash back to their planet. I would love to talk to my local Congressman about my suspicions, but I just can't seem to find him. So - WHERE DID HE GO?

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Rob Robbins is Back!

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Plus, complete with our traditional champagne toast at midnight!

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Town News

Bethel

By Nancy Brown



I know I'm not being paranoid about this because it happens to every member of my family at least once a year. When my kids were little they seldom went out to play during the winter with the same color mittens on each hand. I thought I solved the missing mitten problem once by getting the kids the idiot mittens, you know the ones attached to each other with yarn. The only thing this accomplished was that instead of the loss of one mitten, both of them disappeared. So - WHERE DO THEY GO?

My earrings are another such item that falls prey to the invisible kleptomaniac, especially my expensive ones that I dearly cherish. By expensive, I mean the ones that I paid more than \$2 for. The earrings that I buy in bulk don't seem to get separated with the same frequency as the good ones. I tried to organize the earrings once by getting an earring tree. But now the earring tree has a lot of empty branches. That should change in the next few weeks.

I snowshoed some of the old trails in the woods in back of my house on Sunday. Last week the snow was the sheen and consistency of fondant; this week it was mushy granules and I kept falling through the snow in the boggy areas. Along with coyote and moose tracks, I found dozens of skunk cabbages in the bog. This is one of our earliest "spring" flowers, but I have never seen one in December. I have heard of skunk cabbages blossoming as early as February. The plant has the ability to generate temperatures up to 27-63 degrees F above the air temperature by cyanide resistant cellular respiration, which enables it to melt frozen ground and push up to the surface. Skunk cabbages are often seen in patches of snow and ice. The flowers are pollinated by insects that also emerge at the same time. I don't know whether the warm weather has also brought out the in-

sects, but I'm going to keep my eye on these early arrivals to see if they are able to survive when the arctic temperatures return in January.

Dog licenses are due before Jan. 1 (which is tomorrow) in Bethel. Licenses can be paid at the Town Office. Bring a copy of your dog's rabies certificate with you. Beginning Feb. 1 there is a late fee of \$25.00 for each unregistered dog that you have.

Next Wednesday, Jan. 7, is the date of the first book discussion in the "Local & Legendary: Bethel, Maine, in the Civil War" project that is being presented by the Bethel Historical Society, Bethel Library, and Gould Academy. The project is sponsored by the Maine Historical Society and Maine Humanities Council and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The meeting will be at the Bethel Library at 7 p.m. The discussion book is Civil War Stories by Ambrose Bierce and is available for check out at the Bethel Library. For more information, call 824-2520.

If you have news to share, please e-mail me at brown-nancy1950@gmail.com, or call me at 824-2483.

East Bethel

By Wally Ritz



Again I need to apologize for no news. I guess you can put the blame on me due to the way I was brought up. One was told not to bother folks on Holidays and weekends, thus I had not much time to call and get news. None called me either and I take that as a verification of mutual respect. Gosh, I have to con-

fess though, that through Facebook (aside from family and dearest friends) some of us "German Americans" are really ignoring etiquette and chatting about what we miss and also food we miss and the best way to try and make it here. So, please, let's work together for the next column. I will call you and you can call me at 507-1008 or e-mail heinrichcracker@gmail.com... and I always do love the visitors at the Shop. Thank you all so very much.

Now the answer to the Trivia: It was the late Angie Swan (Mrs. Parlin) whose Aunt Nancy said, "Shoes or no shoes I will shout".

I also have no real resolutions for 2015 other than live every day as if it is your last day, love your family and friends, pay it forward whenever you can and thus I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year filled with love and caring. Happy New Year.

Andover

By Jane C. Rich



All week long I kept reminding myself of the early deadline for submitting this column and even on Sunday I told myself to do it before 9 p.m. Guess what? Somehow it slipped my mind until 4:30 a.m. on Monday, so you may or may not ever read what follows.

A few reminders of importance: The Town Office will be closing Wednesday morning Dec. 31 at 11 a.m. so that accounts for 2014 may be closed out. A Rabies Clinic is scheduled

for Jan. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fire Station. If you need to register your dog, you should bring proof of spaying or neutering with you. There will be a Good Shepherd Food delivery on Monday morning, Jan. 5 at 8:30 a.m. The pantry will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 6 with regular hours between 9 and 10 a.m.

Due to the warm weather, the skating rink is not yet in operation. Ordinarily during this week camps would be full of people with snowmobiles and skis, but that is not the case this year. Mother Nature has thrown us a curveball in the snow and cold department. Great for the heating oil bill, but not for the fun of school vacation.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Lester Thurston who passed away on Christmas Day in Naples, Fla. Services will be held in Andover during the summer at a date to be decided. Lester came here every summer from his childhood forward to stay at the family camp on Roxbury Pond, I was privileged to have been his "summer pastor" for the last 23 years as well as a friend. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy, and children, Steve, Tom and Leslie.

On a personal note. This Sunday I concluded 23 years of serving as pastor of the First Congregational Church. I'm not sure how all those years seemed to have sped by so fast, but they did. I was blessed to be a part of so many families in the joys and sorrows of life and I thank all of you for that gift. The new pastor is Linda Couture. There will be a potluck lunch following worship on Jan. 4 to

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**New Year's Eve
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Lobster Bisque

or

Roasted Beet Salad with Goat Cheese

Classic Caesar Salad with Anchovy Filet

Appetizers

Beef Carpaccio with Arugula

Oysters on the Half Shell

Colossal Shrimp Cocktail

Bruschetta

Main Course

Lamb Porterhouse with Port Wine Reduction

Italian Seafood Cioppino

Poached Mahi Mahi with Fresh Vegetables

Braised Short Rib With Fried Leek Puree

Eggplant Lasagna "22"

Dessert

Tiramisu

Key Lime Pie

Chocolate Valrhona

House Made Limoncello

\$65.00 p/p plus tax and gratuity

Reservations required

Bon Appetito & Happy New Year!

We will be Closed Christmas Day

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Broad Street**

at Gideon Hastings House

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**Christmas
For Children**

**The Bethel
Rotary Club
has raised
\$12,405
toward their
goal of
\$15,000**

To be used to
purchase toys
for needy
boys & girls in
our community.

Contributions may be mailed to:
Bethel Rotary Club • Christmas for Children

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Deadline to apply is December 18. All applications will be kept confidential.



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Seafood Bisque \$4 Cup • \$6 Bowl

SALAD

Garden Salad \$3.50

Greek Salad \$6

Caesar Salad \$6

APPETIZERS

Seafood Cocktail \$10

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ENTREES

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Lobster Casserole \$24

Crab & Scallop Stuffed Sole \$18

Scallops Nantucket \$22

Boothbay Fettucine \$26

14 oz. New York Sirloin \$22

Grilled

welcome Linda. Everyone is welcome.

Bryant Pond

By Alice Hoyt

The Woodstock-Greenwood Senior Citizens meet Thursday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day at the Woodstock Fire Station. This is a potluck dinner so please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. There will be a Silent Auction following, so please bring an item for that. Meeting starts at 11:30. Dues will be due at this meeting. New members always welcome.

Franklin Grange 124 meets at the home of Alice Hoyt on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. with a potluck lunch.

Services at the Baptist Church are Sunday School at 9:15, Morning Worship at 10:30, Evening Service at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening at 6:30 is Mid-Week Service, Bloom for girls 13 to 18 and Foundations for guys 15 and up. Sunday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. missionaries Jason and Ita Strout will be updating us on the work in Argentina. Brother Jason will be preaching. Bryant Pond Baptist Church is a collection point for the Coats for Kids campaign. Help keep children warm this winter season by donating. The teens at the church are still collecting bottles and cans for their trip.

Gilead

By Lin Chapman

Now, we get to say goodbye to 2014 and welcome 2015! It seems like it just began. One of the hardest things I find when you get into the new year is remembering to write the correct year on

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checks. My brother, Steve McLain, stopped by the house last Saturday and got to visit with Chris and Kym's little dog, Aunree. She likes to be held and patted. She is a peekapoo, so is no bigger than a house cat.

Got any news? Call 836-2987 or e-mail chapmal@

hotmail.com.

Locke's Mills

By BETSEY FOSTER



anyone about what they did for the holidays and will include it in the column next week.

Little by little the single-stream recycling project is coming to life. Town Manager Sparks said the next step in the process will be when Dave Berry builds a new structure to house the workers. Hopefully, that may happen this week.

The holiday season has come and gone for this year. Like many of us, the pleasure of that season is also accompanied by a sigh of relief that we are back to our normal lives.

We are gaining about 30 seconds of daylight each day, and by January 4 it will be up to a minute per day. The increase is a later sunset. Going the right way second-by-second.

Fans of Mt. Abram might be interested to know that when the Cross brothers, Don, Stuart, and Norton who started the ski area, sold it, they gave all their pictures and such to the Greenwood Historical Society. The memorabilia are all collected in a ring binder, and you can take a look at them by contacting Blaine Mills. Fun to look through some of the old pics of the early days.

This Thursday, Jan. 1, is big doings at Carter's XC Ski Center in Bethel. It is Carter's Last Stand and there will be a wide variety of on-snow activities for adults and children, a fireside chat on "Maine's Nordic Skiing Heritage - 1870 to the Present" by the Ski Museum of Maine staff, a buffet lunch catered by The Good Food Store, and the day will be capped off by the drawing for the Great Ski and Sport Shop Raffle with over \$1,000 worth of prizes. The event is a fund-raiser for the Ski Museum of Maine

which plans to open a satellite museum in Bethel. Sounds like good fun for all.

And now the big news. Monk, my dog, gave his girlfriend Annabelle, another dog, a ring for Christmas. It was a doggie diamond. In other words, homemade dog biscuit shaped as a very large diamond ring. Annabelle promptly ate the ring. I suppose that means she accepted it. They plan on a long engagement and will maintain their separate residences.

Please send news and other silly stuff to 3taichi6@gmail.com.

Newry

By Doug Webster



It has been quite a busy year in Newry. Highlights follow. At the March Town Meet-

ing, the townspeople voted to fund the engineering of the Letter S hill on the outer Sunday River Road. The culvert at the bottom is failing and the hill needs to be upgraded. The town awarded the bid to JAGJA, Inc. Owner Joe Aloisio gave the town a progress report this summer, and there should be some action on that issue at this year's Town Meet-

ing. The Selectman race between Incumbent Wendy Hanscom and Doug Webster was deemed invalid as well as the two School Board seats due to an incorrect process used for ballots and notification of elections. The town's lawyer got us back on the proper election statutes and process. A re-election was held and Wendy won a second time, and the School Board members were reappointed.

The Selectboard approved and adopted a new Code of Ethics policy. They also wrote and approved new job descriptions for all the town employees. The Board and CEO, Dave Bonney, have been working on a budget

and are studying options on paving the section of Sunday River Road from Monkey Brook intersection to the Letter S project. There should be numbers to look at at the Town Meeting.

The Selectboard also approved quite a few upgrades at the Bear River Grange Hall. Dave Bonney put together all the information and contractor estimates, and the Board approved insulation for the attic as well as gable vents, a new hot air furnace, and chimney work including lining on the inside and re-pointing on the outside.

The Board has a citizen request for a sand/salt shed for the townspeople to use. The Board ended up not moving forward with the shed, seemingly due to lack of push and lack of money.

This December the Board was asked to look into funding available to help support the Mountain Explorer bus service. The bus service's current funding has dried up, and they are looking for new approaches to fund the program.

The Town Office was broken into earlier this year. Evidently they found someone connected with the break-in. The Town Office finally got some new carpet this year. It has been on the agenda for the past couple of years and it's finally in. It looks really good. Deputy Clerk Anita Clark left for a new job and was replaced by Kelly Scott.

The Eddy School at Newry Corner expanded this summer. It almost doubled its size, making room for a few new students and giving everyone some more elbow room.

Step Falls and the Covered Bridge saw lots of action this year. Both seem bound to have growing pains due to increasing tourism and parking issues. The Town Office has been handling all calls for the Covered Bridge functions, and the calls keep increasing every year. Hopefully they can continue to keep up with it.

Sunday River had its Second Annual Tough Moun-

1

tain Challenge this July. Out of 3,500 available spots for next year's race, 3,092 have already been claimed at this time.

Newry has begun the process of a citizen-initiated withdrawal from MSAD 44. The committee will keep working through the process as the year progresses.

I hope everybody has a good new year, "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man." - Benjamin Franklin

As always, please send me your news, especially if you do not like mine, dwebster@megalink.net.

Mason

By Richard Grover

Mona and I found Las Vegas much changed since our last visit about 15 years ago.

The city has spread out extensively in all directions, and traffic has increased correspondingly. Las Vegas (the strip) has changed from a lightly travelled 4 lane street with a few casinos separated by expanses of desert to a densely packed city-scape cluster of huge hotel-casinos separated by all sorts of restaurants, shops, malls and all sorts of other businesses. Traffic is so heavy through the clusters of large hotel-casinos (Caesar's Palace, MGM Grand, Treasure Island, etc., etc.) that they have built elevated covered walkways for pedestrians to safely cross the 5 or 6 lanes of traffic.

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cated on Las Vegas Boulevard, about 5 or 6 miles south of the center of "The Strip," and required 2 bus transfers to get to/from the center of the strip or Freemont Street in the center of the old downtown Las Vegas. Buses passing past the Cancun condo ran a little less frequently than those passing through the casino districts. We found the wait at the transfer station closest to the Cancun to be closer to an hour during the evening/nighttime hours, when the outside air temperatures ran in the 40-50 degree range while we were there.

We went to Freemont Street one evening to catch the "light show" there. About two blocks of Freemont Street is a pedestrian mall and is covered by a huge arch above the level of the casinos is an arch covering the street

from one side to the other made up of some type of metallic latticework covered by a huge number of LED type lights. After it is sufficiently dark, on the hour every hour all evening, the interior of the archway is covered in a kaleidoscope of color as a myriad of moving colored images accompanied by loud music and sounds from unseen loudspeakers up and down the street. First, a huge waving American flag appears overhead and you hear the unmistakable strains of the Star Spangled Banner boom out, and the sight of the AF Thunderbirds roars overhead, all projected on the overhead arch. Following the Star Spangled Banner, music and an ever changing series of patriotic images parade along the arch for several minutes each hour.

As we got off the bus at the beginning of the

Freemont Street experience, we were met by a crowd of every sort of vendors hawking all kinds of food items, panhandlers hoping for "easy pickins" among the tourists, artists, bands and showgirls enticing passers-by into clubs or casinos.

Upton

By Joe Bernier



Only two weeks until Sunday breakfasts at the Ladies Aid.

My family and I had a great Christmas; I hope you and yours did, too.

The "doctor" finished all necessary operations on my snow mobile and it is now home and ready to go. Come on snow!

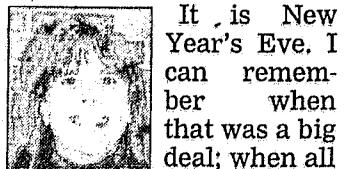
Happy New Year everyone!

Please call 533-2010 or e-

mail backstjoe@gmail.com with your news.

Waterford

By Rockie Graham



It is New Year's Eve. I can remember when that was a big deal; when all the different

town and cities had New Year's (Name of Town/City) They were all fun events.

I remember early in the New Year's Portland Years, we all ran around all night from event to event and had a great time. We didn't seem to need to sleep in those days.

Now not so much energy and I know of no towns doing the events. Too expensive I guess. But it was fun while it existed.

Maybe someday it will return. For now, I guess we will stay home and drink

palling cider and go to

sleep early. Such is old age.

I apologize for not printing these past few weeks. Not using the computer enough, I was unaware of the deadlines. Now I am.

My recovery has been slow and not exciting. Due to the resurgence of my Lyme disease problems, things have been slowed down. I am getting stronger, but I have good days and bad with the Lyme and that makes recovery hard. Sorry Richard, but you were wrong on all accounts.

Wednesday, Dec. 31, there are New Year's parties at all the ski areas and at Oxford Casino. All sound like fun, but are cost prohibitive for most of us. That was the great thing about New Year's (name town/city) they were priced or us average Joes. There are fireworks at Sunday River and Mt. Abram if anyone

is looking. Jan. 1, Carter's will host the Last Stand Nordic day with a full schedule of events. Cost is \$25 adults, \$15 juniors and free ages 5 and under.

Saturday, Jan. 3, there is a full moon hike at Mt. Abram, participants' equipment will be transported up the mountain.

Monday, Jan. 5, Knitting Group will meet at Waterford Library from 2 to 4 p.m. All levels of knitters are welcome. FMI call 583-2050.

Also on Monday, Socrates Cafe will meet at Waterford Library from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Again call 583-2050 for more information.

As soon as the current round of antibiotics kicks in, I should be back at work. I already have doctor's permission.

That is all for this week. Have a happy and safe New Year. See you next year.

OCSD Patrol Log

Tuesday, Dec. 23

At 8:29 a.m. a vehicle went off the road on Route 5 in Bethel, striking a large mirror and getting stuck in the snowbank. Deputy Dani Welch responded. The accident was nonreportable.

At 8:59 a.m. Lt. Tom Harriman was assigned to a new sex offender registration in Bethel.

At 11:33 a.m. a Bethel resident reported phone harassment from an out-of-state subject. Sgt. Tim Holland was assigned.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

At 8:36 a.m. a report was received of the theft of alcohol from a bar on Broad Street in Bethel the night before. Deputy Steve Witham was assigned.

Friday, Dec. 26

At 5:17 p.m. a report was received of a pickup truck all over the road on Route 2 in Bethel. Sgt. Tim Holland responded but no vehicle was located.

Saturday, Dec. 27

At 9:05 a.m. Sgt. Tim Holland responded to a single vehicle crash on the West Bethel Road in Bethel. The vehicle was off the road. There was no injury.

Sunday, Dec. 28

At 3:51 p.m. Deputy Dani Welch assisted the animal control officer with an abuse/neglect case in Bethel.

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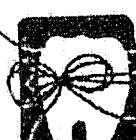
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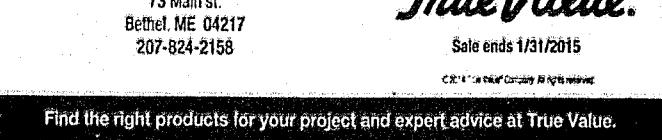
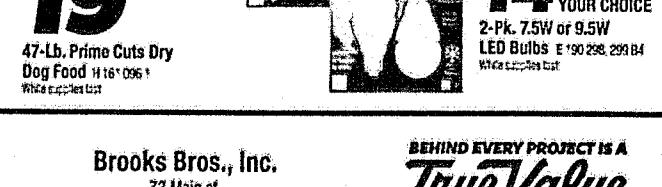
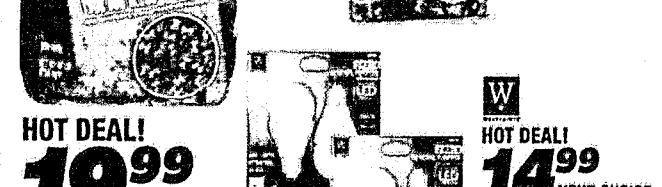
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is looking.

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MLT tracking/birding walk

The Mahoosuc Land Trust invites all in the area to welcome in the New Year on a gentle snowshoe exploration of the Ellis River in Rumford, Saturday, Jan. 3 beginning at 10 a.m. The hike will explore the stretch of riverfront along the Ellis River owned by the deFrees Family.

Local naturalists will be along to help identify animal tracks and spot winter birds. Those with sharp eyes may spot river otters sliding into the water. The walk will be topped off with a bonfire with hot dogs and marshmallows for roasting.

The walk will begin 1/8 of a mile beyond the parking lot for the Whitecap trail: Take Route 5 north from Route 2 for 3 miles. Turn right to cross the first bridge, then left onto the East Andover Road. The parking lot is 200 yards on left. Parking will be available beside the road and limited parking at 92 East Andover Road (brown house).

The Mahoosuc Land Trust is an accredited community land trust encouraging public interest in conservation in central Oxford County, Maine, and eastern Coos County, N.H., supporting a balance of growth and conservation and emphasizing sustainable and traditional land uses. For more information, visit www.mahoosuc.org or call 207-824-3806.

WMAG begins winter season

The Main Street Gallery, 426 Main Street, Norway, Maine begins its winter season with a First Friday Reception Jan. 2, from 5-7 p.m.. The gallery will be exhibiting the work of fine artists and artisans living and working in Western Maine. The jewelry of Suzie Bottomley, Western Maine Art Group's Artist of the Month, will be featured. She describes her work "Inspired by color from the ground up, I create fun, affordable necklaces with semi-precious, glass and ceramic beads and wire. I go for balance, not symmetry...As an irreverent nod to Mrs. Cleaver's pearls, they're perfect with jeans & tee shirts while mowing the lawn, or out and about during the day."

Please join us at our opening and view the collection of original arts, mosaics, landscapes, figurative paintings, still life paintings, jewelry, and more. Visitors to the gallery on First Fridays will receive special 20% discounts on selected works.

During the winter season, the gallery is open Tuesday-through Saturday 10-4. For more information, art classes, demonstrations, and special trips sponsored by the WMAG visit westernmaineartgroup.org and facebook, Main Street Gallery. The gallery is free and open to the public.

Albany Improvement Association meeting

Albany Township residents and land owners concerned about taxes, spending and other issues are strongly encouraged to attend a meeting led by Albany resident Jeff Rosenblatt. Jeff will explain what he has recently learned about the County Commissioners' decision-making process and the ways residents may be able to influence it. Representatives from the Commissioners' Office will not be attending. The meeting will be held at the Albany Town House on Monday, Jan. 5 from 6 to 7 p.m.

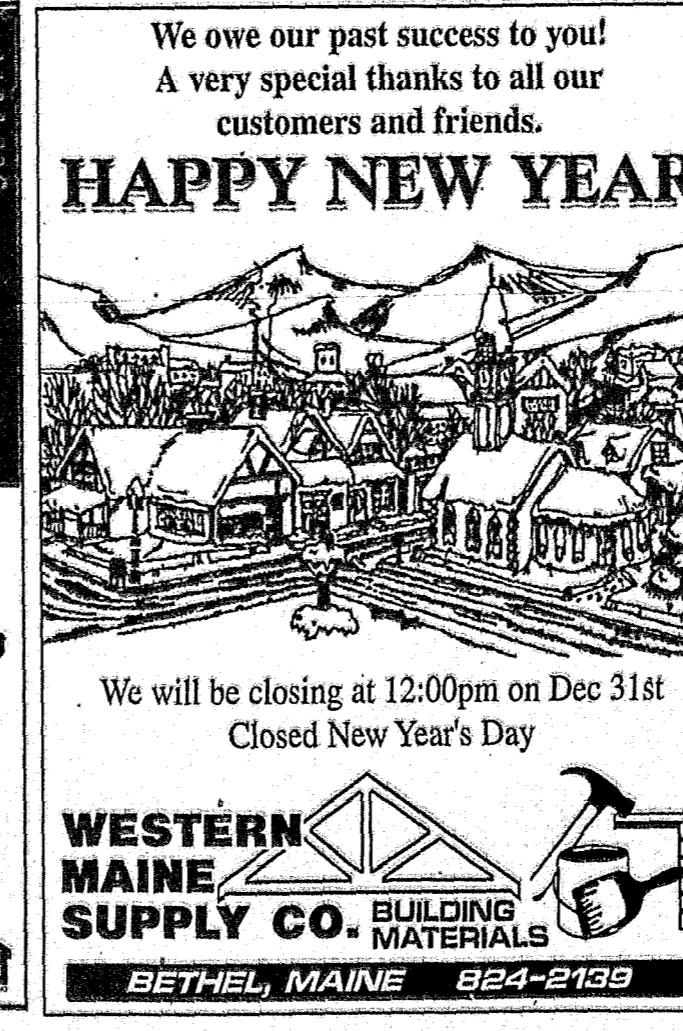
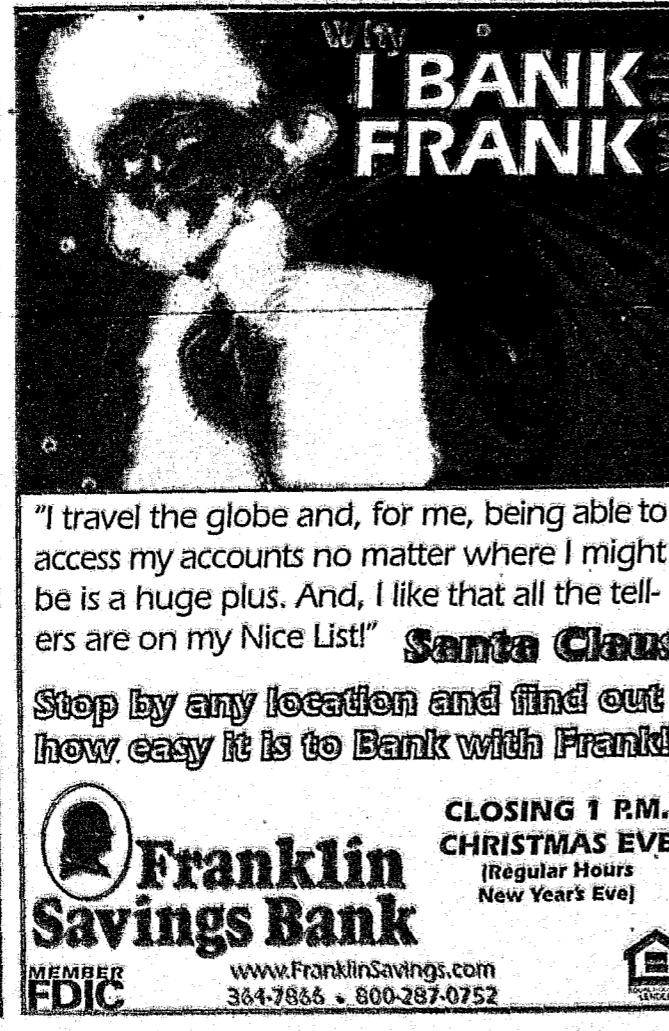
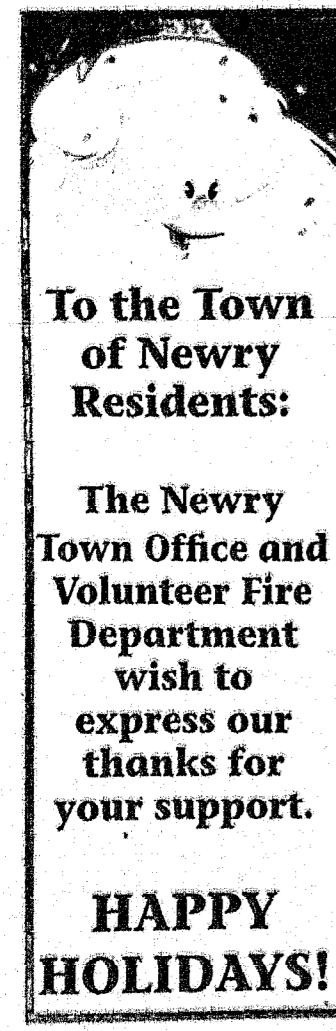
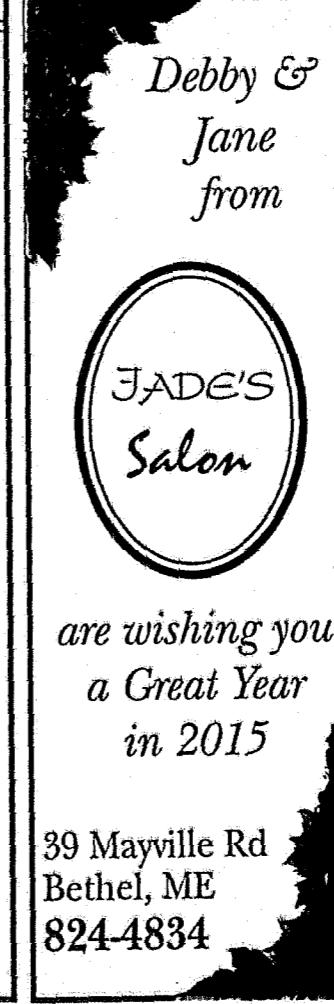
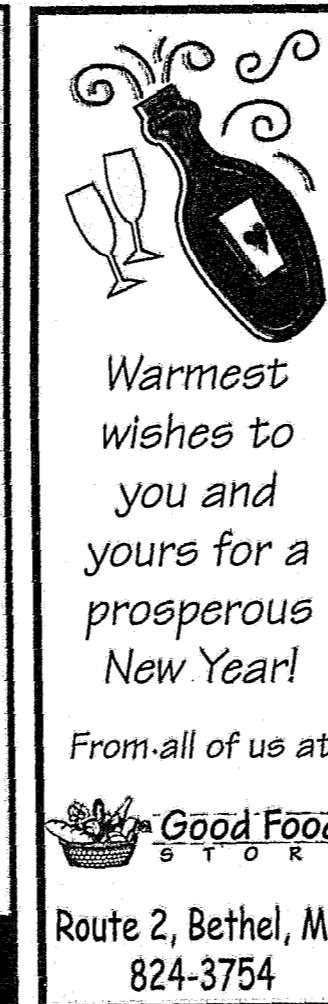
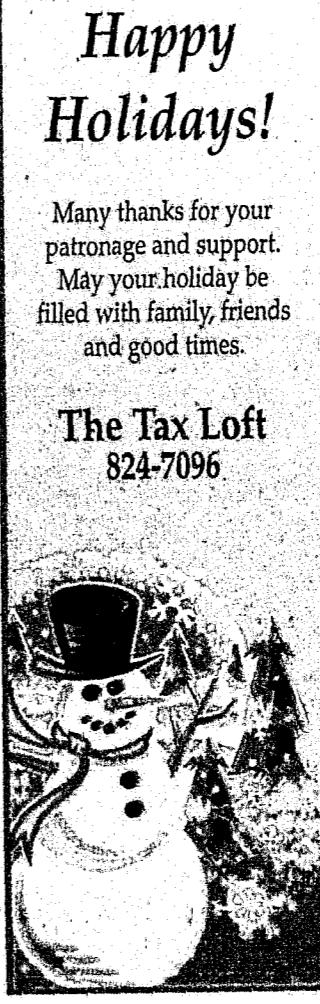
Sports



Ranor, LBI Control MV Rec

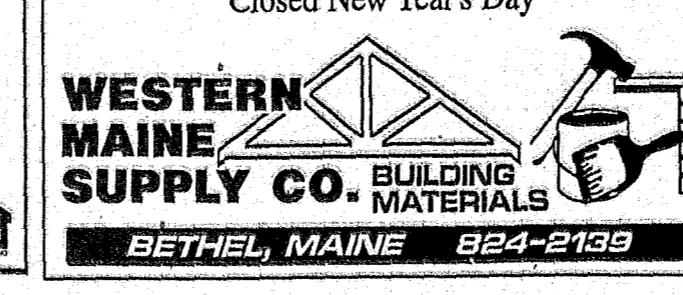
After one month of play, both Ranor Mechanical and Laid Back Installers are at the top of the league with a 4-0 record, with The Matterhorn 3rd at 2-1. The rest of the league is under .500, Archies is 1-2, Bethel is 1-3, Jay and Neptune are both 0-3. In this week's action, The Matterhorn defeated Neptune, 86-45. Balanced scoring saw Glen Dubois with 17 points, followed by 16 each from Peter Chase and Trevis Knapp; Steve Lizotte with 12 and Kindall Bonsall with 10. Neptune's Matt Lyons had 16 points and Mike Leclerc had 10. Then Ranor used their effective team game to blow by Bethel, 102-70. Five players in double figures saw Steve Lambert hit 24 points, Aaron St Pierre and Kevin Gallant(5 threes) 19, Scot New 18 and Craig Milledge 13. Bethel's Ryan Savage had a solid game and led the team with 33 points and Joe Gaudreau 18 points, all on threes. The new year brings 3 games on the 4th with Ranor and LBI squaring off at 10 a.m. for first place honors, followed by The Matterhorn and Archies at 11:30 and Neptune against Jay at 1 p.m.

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Greenwood

Town of Greenwood to Arthur and Startha Tatseos Estate of Tyngsboro, Mass., property at Map U02A Lot 4, Bird Hill Road. \$3,299, Oct. 7, 2014.

Mills Family Residuary Trust to Mark D. and Theresa R. Doherty of Whitman, Mass., property at Map R12 Lot 6-1, Spruce Lane. \$155,000, Oct. 10, 2014.

Ian O. Dewing to Alan Perry of Alcohol Mary Trust, land and building at 159 Alcohol Mary Road. \$133,000, Oct. 17, 2014.

Granada James Rei, LLC to Robert M. Packard of Mims, Fla., property at 590 West Paris Road. \$26,000, Oct. 17, 2014.

Maine Round Pond Realty Trust to James D. and Michal Aileen Small of Bethel, land and building at 54 Marshal Lane. \$345,000, Oct. 20, 2014.

Lori J. Waldron to Frances J. Begin of Greenwood, property at Condo Lane. \$72,500, Oct. 20, 2014.

Newry

Barry McWade to Vesey Realty Trust of Danvers, Mass., condominium at 280 Skiway Road. \$355,000, Sept. 15, 2014.

Jeffrey Stearns to Speros C. Venios of Peabody, Mass., land and building at 70 Coombs Road. \$330,000, Sept. 26, 2014.

Property Transfers

Kerry J. and Thomas E. Hollmran, Jr. to Todd and Kimberly Piver of Marblehead, Mass., condominium at 9 Northway Drive. \$179,000, Sept. 29, 2014.

Maine Mountain Properties, LLC to Frank W. Getman, Jr. of Portsmouth, N.H., Lot 61B at the Peaks Subdivision. \$15,000, Oct. 1, 2014.

Christopher M. and Lorna Murphy to Jeffrey R. and Leigh M. Small of Scarborough, land and building at 122 Keystone Drive. \$385,000, Oct. 2, 2014.

Vernon and Tamara Davis to Christopher T. and Shaunna T. Lai of Newton, Mass., land and building at 125 Douglass Road - Powder Ridge. \$355,000, Oct. 3, 2014.

Edward T. Frackiewicz and Mark S. Sidney to Cathy E. Homicz of Cathy E. Homicz 1994 Trust of New Castle, N.H., condominium at 367 Skiway Road. \$170,000, Oct. 3, 2014.

Maine Mountain Properties to Boulder Construction, LLC of Swansea, Mass., Lot 68 at the Peaks Subdivision. \$75,000, Oct. 8, 2014.

Maine Mountain Properties to Boulder Construction, LLC of Swansea, Mass., Lot 74 at the Peaks Subdivision. \$74,000, Oct. 8, 2014.

Maine Mountain Properties to Boulder Construction, LLC of Swansea, Mass., Lot 82 at the Peaks Subdivision. \$60,000, Oct. 8, 2014.

Edward H. and Carrie A. Winchman to John Mazzotta Construction Corp. of Weston, Mass., land at

Lot 9 Douglass Road. \$31,000, Oct. 8, 2014.

Hellen N. Doucette to Mark S. and Caralyn A. Good of Norfolk, Mass., condominium at 16 Roadrunner Drive. \$93,000, Oct. 10, 2014.

Nancy B. Samiljan of Babette S. Radner 1984 Trust to S2M2 Properties, LLC of Saco, property at 65 Timberline Road and Lot 35 Timberline Road. \$229,000, Oct. 17, 2014.

Hudson Newry Realty Trust to Matthew F. Peck of Scarborough, condominium at 8 Cascades Drive. \$125,000, Oct. 20, 2014.

William and Cynthia Sibold to Michael G. Dallas/Janine C. Dallass 2014 Revocable Trust of Berlin, Mass., condominium at 22 Overpass Road. \$627,500, Oct. 22.

Maine Mountain Properties, LLC to Pires Mountain, LLC of Dewey Beach, Del., Lot 100 at the Peaks Subdivision. \$60,000, Oct. 23, 2014.

Maine Mountain Properties, LLC to Pires Mountain, LLC of Dewey Beach, Del., Lot 81 at the Peaks Subdivision. \$70,000, Oct. 23, 2014.

Maine Mountain Properties, LLC to Pires Mountain, LLC of Dewey Beach, Del., Lot 67 at the Peaks Subdivision. \$80,000, Oct. 23, 2014.

Henry Thomas and Amy A. Morton to Eric M. and Lindsay R. Chaves and Christopher V. and Lauri M. Hoeffler of Hudson, Mass., land and building at 25 Blizzard Drive. \$465,000, Oct. 24, 2014.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District Exchange; Bethel Park, 23 Mason Street, Bethel. Hours: Monday 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of gently-used clothing only accepted during open hours - No exceptions. FMI: 824-4090. Clothing may also be left at Northeast Bank, Main Street, Bethel Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bethel Area Food Pantry; serving the residents of Albany, Andover, Bethel, East Bethel, West Bethel, Bryant Pond, Gilead, Greenwood, Hanover, Locke's Mills, Mason Township, Newry, Upton and Woodstock. The Food Pantry is open on the second Monday of each month from noon to 8 p.m. Anyone in need of food should come during those hours, without appointment. The Food pantry is located in the basement of the Nazarene Church, 16 Church Street, Bethel, by the side entrance on Park Street.

Felted Art Exhibit; The Norway Memorial Library invites the public to view a felted art exhibit by Marty Elkin of A Wrinkle in Thyme Farm through February 2015 during the library's open hours. Elkin's felted art is inspired by her work on the farm, nature, and animals. All the wool used in the art work is from the farm's sheep and Elkin dyes the wool herself. For more information please visit the library's web site www.norway.lib.me.us or call at 743-5309 ext. 1.

Civil War Stories" Book Discussion; A book discussion on "Civil War Stories" by Ambrose Bierce will take place at the Bethel Library Jan. 7, Feb. 4 and March 4 at 7 p.m., led by Doug Rawlings, representing the Maine Historical Society and The Maine Humanities Council. Books are available at the Bethel Library. The discussion is part of the "Local & Legendary: Maine in the Civil War" project, a joint effort by Gould Academy, the Bethel Historical Society and the Bethel Library Association.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Jones Dance Band New Year Dance; 8 p.m. to midnight, Legion Hall, Church Street, South Paris. \$20 per person (includes refreshments and dance). Door prizes, 50/50. No reservations.

Fireworks Display; 8:30 p.m., South Ridge Lodge/Foggy Goggle, Sunday River.

Aldous Collins Band with 3rd Left; 9 p.m., the Foggy Goggle. The Aldous Collins Band is a rock group from Hull, Massachusetts. Fans love their versatile sound and awesome live shows. The band is up for "Best Live Act" in Massachusetts by Limelight Magazine. 3rd Left is another Mass-based band renowned for its magnetic live performances.

Mt. Abram New Year's Eve Party and Fireworks; Live music in the Loose Boots Lounge and a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. FMI: 875-5000 or www.SkiMtAbram.com.

Thursday, Jan. 1

Bethel Senior Citizens Luncheon Reservation Deadline; See Jan. 14 listing for details.

30th Annual Carter's Last Stand Nordic Day; The full schedule of events includes the choice of an interpretive snowshoe tour with a forest biologist, uphill Nordic ski climb to the top of Farwell Mountain, guided cross-country ski tour along the Androscoggin River or a kids' x-country ski and snowshoe activity. \$25/adults, \$15/juniors (6-18), free/ages 5 and under. FMI: 539-4848.

Friday, Jan. 2

WMAG First Friday Reception; 5 to 7 p.m., Main Street Gallery, 426 Main Street, Norway. The gallery will be exhibiting the work of fine artists and artisans living and working in Western Maine. The jewelry of Stuzie Bottomley, Western Maine Art Group's Artist of the Month, will be featured. She describes her work "Inspired by color from the ground up, I create fun, affordable necklaces with semi-precious, glass and ceramic beads and wire. I go for balance, not symmetry. As an irreverent nod to Mrs. Cleaver's pearls, they're perfect with jeans and T-shirts while mowing the lawn, or out and about during the day." FMI: westernmaineartgroup.org.

Jan. 3 and 4

Ranked Choice Voting Petition Drive; Downtown Bethel. If the proposal is approved, candidates would be elected with more than 50 percent of the vote. Voters in an election would mark their first, second and third choice candidates.

Saturday, Jan. 3

MLT Ellis River Snowshoe Hike; 10 a.m., 1/8 of a mile beyond the parking lot for the Whitecap trail; Take Route 5 north from Route 2 for 3 miles. Turn right to cross the first bridge, then left onto the East Andover Road. The parking lot is 200 yards on left. Parking will be available beside the road and limited parking at 92 East Andover Road (brown house). Local naturalists will be along to help identify animal tracks and spot winter birds. Those with sharp eyes may spot river otters sliding into the water. The walk will be topped off with a bonfire with hot dogs and marshmallows for roasting. FMI: www.mahoosuc.org or 824-3806.

Live Music with Ralph Arsenault; 2 to 5 p.m. Black Mountain Ski Resort, Rumford. A multi-talented musician, Ralph never disappoints an audience

with his solo acoustic performances. FMI: www.ralpharsenault.com.

Full Moon Hike; 5:30 to 8 p.m., Mt. Abram. Mt. Abram staff will transport skis and boards to the top so participants can enjoy the hike to the top and then ski/ride to the bottom by the light of the full moon.

Live Music with SF Jones; 6 to 9 p.m., Black Mountain Ski Resort, Rumford. A group of seasoned bluesters hailing from the Lakes region. This rock solid lineup oozes rockin' psychedelic swamp boogie blues that raises the roof, rumbles the floor and shakes butts right outta their seats!

Shut Down Brown; 9 p.m., the Foggy Goggle. Shut Down Brown bridges the gap between classic 90's R&B and its predecessor, 70's soul. They are a live funk band with big horns, tons of energy and guarantee to get you out on the dance floor grooving!

Sunday, Jan. 4

"Justice and Redemption" Service; 9 a.m., First Universalist Church of West Paris. Rev. Fayre Stephenson explores our broken system of justice and the potential for mercy to redeem us using Bryant Stevenson's new book, "Just Mercy."

Sunday Jam! Open Mic hosted by Jamie & Gary; 2 to 5 p.m., Black Mountain Ski Resort's Last Run Pub, Rumford. Bring your guitars, voices, percussions, etc., to hang out and jam out.

Monday, Jan. 5

Albany Improvement Assn. Meeting; 6 to 7 p.m., Albany Town House. Albany Township residents and land owners concerned about taxes, spending and other issues are strongly encouraged to attend a meeting led by Albany resident Jeff Rosenblatt. Jeff will explain what he has recently learned about the County Commissioners' decision-making process and the ways residents may be able to influence it. Representatives from the Commissioners' Office will not be attending.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Snow Valley Sno-Goers Meeting; 6 p.m. at the clubhouse off Route 5 in Andover.

FAFSA Evening Featuring Kathy Ruby; 7 to 8:30 p.m., Telstar lecture hall. There will be pizza and a chance for families to win a gift sponsored by the Melmac educational grant. Please call Lori Lindsay at 824-2136 extension 311 with any questions.

Jan. 8 and 9

Red Bull Frozen Rush; The biggest, fastest event to ever hit Sunday River. Red Bull Frozen Rush will once again redefine snow sports by bringing the world's only head-to-head on-snow truck race to Sunday River for the second year in a row. The world's best drivers will race on the slopes of South Ridge in 900-horsepower Frozen Rush Pro4 trucks on a custom-designed course that features berms, an over-under jump, huge dual gap jump and an enormous drift turn that will see both trucks entering together.

Friday, Jan. 9

Fireworks Display; 8:30 p.m., South Ridge Lodge/Foggy Goggle, Sunday River.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Annual Sno-Bash with WCYY, the Q, WHOM and WBLM; Mt. Abram. A day-long, family-friendly ski party.

Oxford Hills Honey Bee Club Meeting; 1 p.m., Oxford County Extension Center, 9 Olson Road, South Paris. Speaker: Commercial Bee Keeper Tony Bachelder. Topic: Feeding bees in the winter, and ordering nucs. There will be a brief meeting for nominations and election of officers. Public's welcome. FMI: Kevin Farr (farrout@roadrunner.com).

Rabies Clinic; 2 to 4 p.m., Andover Fire Station. \$15, cash only.

Woodstock Historical Society Meeting; 6 p.m., Woodstock Town Office complex (weather permitting). Following the business meeting, Mr. John Compton will speak on the origins of military medals. Mr. Compton is a WWII veteran currently living in Oxford. All are welcome to attend.

Live Music with A Mighty Lion; 6 to 9 p.m., Black Mountain Ski Resort, Rumford. A Maine based four piece rock-reggae band with a rapidly growing following. With their infectious and fiendishly catchy grooves and a trademark sound... this is one not to miss!

Peak Comedy Dinner; The Comedy Dinner at Sunday River's mid-mountain Peak Lodge is the perfect way to enjoy an evening in the mountains full of laughter - accompanied by an unforgettable meal. Comedians Dennis Fogg and Jody Sloane with have you laughing all evening. The cost is \$49 per person. This is a 21+ event and reservations are required. Please call 800-543-2754 to make reservations.

Sunday, Jan. 11

"The Growth of Generosity" Service; 9 a.m., First Universalist Church of West Paris. Maryli Tiemann will lead a service on generosity and how experiences shape interaction with life's challenges.

Monday, Jan. 12

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or <http://meoc.maine.edu>. Free and open to the public.

over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or <http://meoc.maine.edu>. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Bethel Senior Citizens Luncheon (Rescheduled from Dec. 10); 11 a.m., the Bethel Inn. Menu: Turkey or haddock. Reservations must be made before Jan. 1 by calling Arlene Lowell at 824-2877 with your choice.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Live Music with Brad Hooper; 2 to 5 p.m., Black Mountain Ski Resort, Rumford. Hooper's vocal quality often has him pegged as a "blues man," but his content spans many genres making it difficult to pigeonhole the guy. Americana, roots, blues, folk, you'll have to decide for yourself.

Tina Kelly Band; 8 to 11:30 p.m., Loose Boots Lounge, Mt. Abram.

Sunday, Jan. 18

Winter Inspired Community Event and food Drive; Mt. Abram. Bring in 5 non-perishable foods and receive \$5 off a lift ticket. After skiing, stay for the family event from 4 to 6 p.m. where children (accompanied by a parent) can take part in winter-themed craft-making that will be used to decorate the lodge.

"The Social Gospel" Service; 9 a.m., First Universalist Church of West Paris. Rev. Fayre Stephenson will lead a service reflecting on Universalist roots and remembering Universalist theologian, Clarence Skinner.

Friday, Jan. 23

Après Ski Music with Jim Tasse; 3:30 to 6 p.m., Loose Boots Lounge, Mt. Abram.

New West Guitar Group; 7:30 p.m., Medallion Opera House, 20 Park Street Gorham, N.H. Tickets: \$12. FMI: www.medallionoperahouse.org.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Live Music with Ralph Arsenault; 2 to 5 p.m., Black Mountain Ski Resort, Rumford. A multi-talented musician, Ralph never disappoints an audience with his solo acoustic performances. FMI: www.ralpharsenault.com.

Live Music with Skosh; 6 to 9 p.m., Black Mountain Ski Resort, Rumford. Influenced by the likes of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Pink Floyd, Grateful Dead, J Geils, & Phish, this 5 piece rock, funk, Ska band is sure to rock your ski socks off!

Sunday, Jan. 25

"That all Souls..." Service; 9 a.m., First Universalist Church of West Paris. Joan Beal will lead a service on justice and the UU guiding principle of living so that "all souls may grow

News from the Bethel Historical Society

Bethel Postal Service
200th Anniversary

In these days of instant communication through electronic devices, it's important to remember the significance that "snail mail" brought to Bethel when the town's first post office opened on Jan. 5, 1815, at the Broad Street home of Dr. Moses Mason — now one of two museums operated by the Bethel Historical Society. That event, which occurred 200 years ago this coming Monday, symbolized the "march of improvement" that took place throughout western Maine during the first quarter of the 19th century. In his 1891 "History of Bethel," Dr. William B. Lapham wrote, "The first settlers of

Sudbury Canada [Bethel] traveled on foot, making the journeys through the woods to Fryeburg, Paris, Norway and even to Portland. After roads had been opened, these journeys were made on horseback, a great improvement on the old method of locomotion." It was improved roads for travel that made it possible for Bethel's first mail delivery to take place in 1815, eliminating the need for its growing population to travel to the nearest post office in Waterford to retrieve letters and the very few newspapers being published at that time. According to Dr. Lapham, "Dr. Mason often remarked in after years, that the most exciting moment of his life was when he

heard the post-rider's horn and knew that the first regular mail was about to arrive at Bethel Hill. The excitement and enthusiasm among the citizens was greater by far than when the first train of [railroad] cars reached Bethel 35 years later.

To commemorate this noteworthy milestone, the Bethel Historical Society plans to re-create the delivery of the town's first mail this coming summer when a horse and rider blowing a tin horn will arrive at the Mason House where Dr. Moses Mason's original post office desk is on permanent display. The exact date of the event will be announced on the Society's website (bethelhistorical.org) and Facebook page.

Society Achieves Annual Fund Match
The Society is extremely pleased to announce that, thanks to the generosity of its members and friends, the \$10,000 matching challenge made by BHS trustee Michael S. Stowell for new and increased Annual Fund gifts in 2014 has been met! Much gratitude is extended to Mike Stowell for his extraordinary support and to all who made a donation for the first time this year or added to their 2013.

Representing just over 30 percent of its yearly income, the Annual Fund allows the Society to sustain daily operations and offer ongoing programs and exhibits about Bethel and the surrounding region. Recent donors to

the Annual Fund are Nancy Babcock and David Walker, Nancy Eaton and Kevin O'Reilly, James Mitchell, Glenn B. Skillin, Roxanne T. Sly, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Carroll, Edward Cellupica, Ann J. Holt, Stanley R. Howe, Edith M. Tucker, Roberta Arbree, Robert C. Parente, and Steven Spitalnik.

Founded in 1966, the Bethel Historical Society is the largest and most comprehensive historical organization in its region. With over 800 members, the Society fosters a sense of place — with a focus on western Maine and the White Mountain region of Maine and New Hampshire — by collecting, preserving, displaying and interpreting historically significant artifacts and documents for resi-

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Number of
Committee Vacancies

Length of Term (Years)

Committee	Number of Vacancies	Length of Term (Years)
Appeals Board	2	3
Appeals Board	1	2
Conservation Commission	1	3
Conservation Commission	1	2
Comprehensive Plan	2	
Ordinance Review	3	3
Planning Board	3	3
Planning Board	1	1

Appeals Board

Appeals Board

Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission

Comprehensive Plan

Ordinance Review

Planning Board

Planning Board

Length of Term (Years)

Appeals Board

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Conservation Commission

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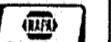
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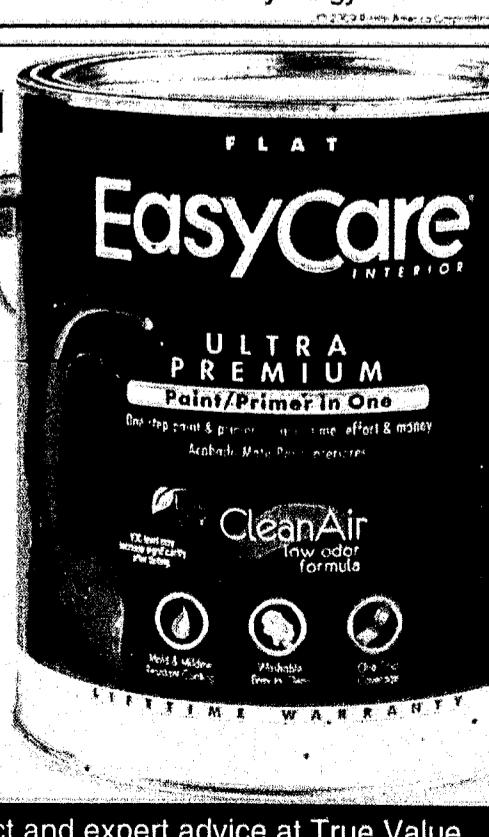
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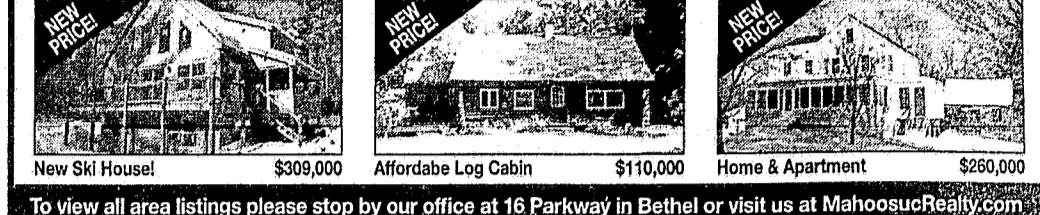
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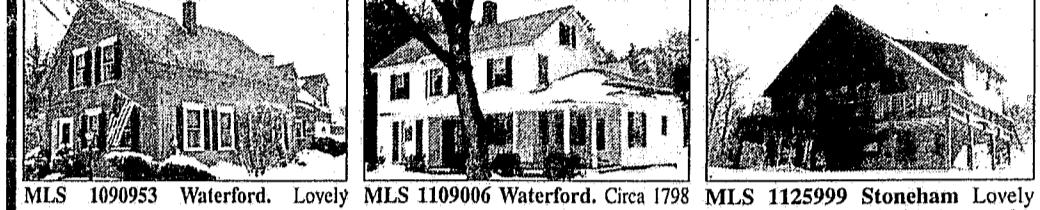


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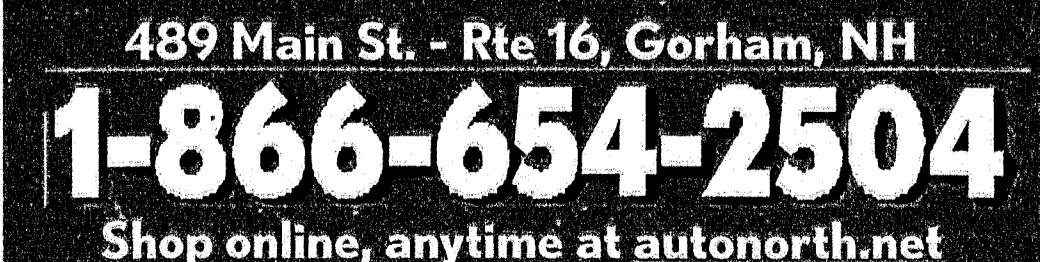
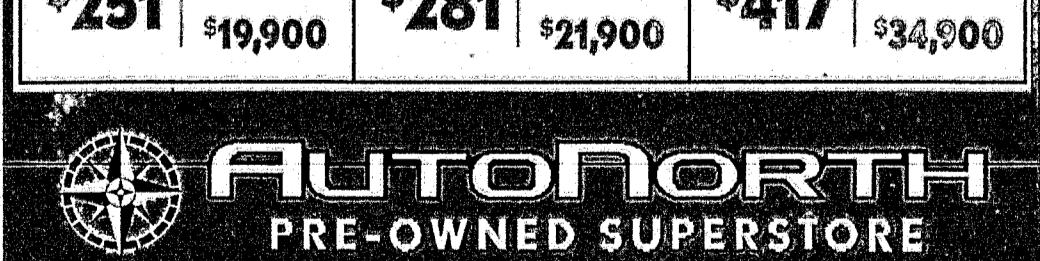
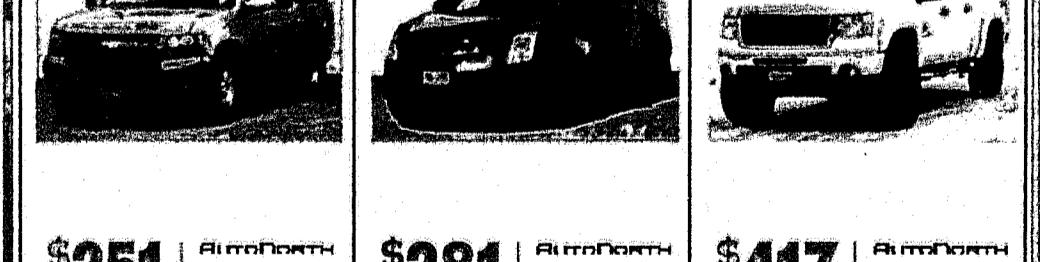
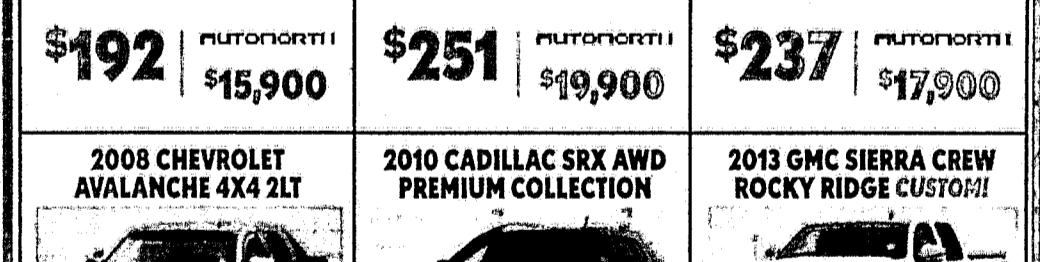
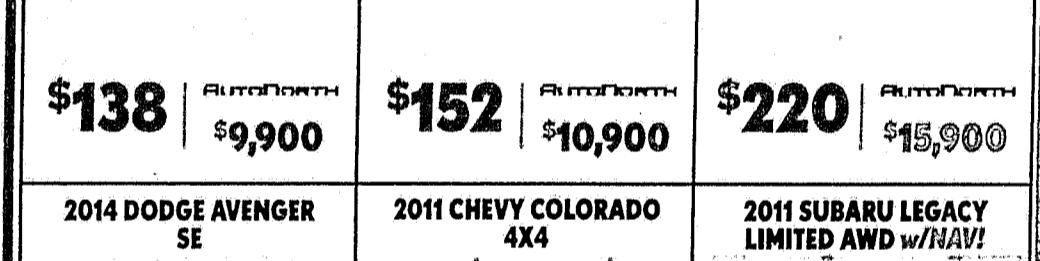
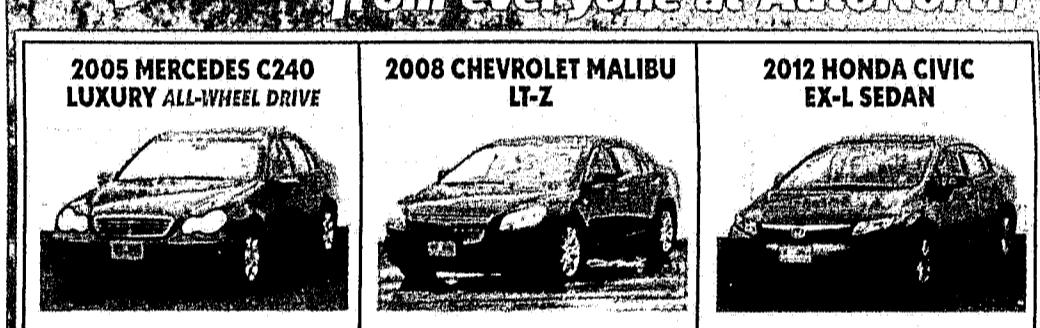
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Obituaries



RALPH HAZELTON

Ralph Hazelton, 90 of East Peru, passed away peacefully at the Rumford Community Hospital on Sunday Dec. 28, with his family at his side.

Ralph was born in Rumford on Aug. 15, 1924, the son of Sidney A. Hazelton and Edith M. (Holman) Hazelton.

Ralph graduated from Stephens High School and served in the U.S. Army from August of 1943 until September of 1945. A member of the 79th Division, Ralph saw action in the European Theater where he was honored with four Purple Hearts and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Upon his return from the war, he graduated from the University of Maine with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics.

He married Annie Grudzinsky on Sept. 12, 1948. They lived in East Peru, where he was a postmaster and general store owner until his retirement in 1981.

Ralph loved the outdoors and was active

well into his 80's. As a young man, he was a baseball pitcher in high school, then Legion, and later the UMO college team. He enjoyed mountain climbing, down hill and cross country skiing, skating, bowling, and always looked forward to family get togethers at the camp on Worthley Pond. He especially enjoyed attending sporting and arts events of his grandchildren. He was a patient, caring person who loved a good laugh and touched the heart of everyone he met. He was predeceased by his wife Annie on May 6, 1986, and his daughter Linda, on Dec. 5, 2013. He is survived by his daughter Cathy Hazelton of Peru, and her husband Bill Hine, son Sidney and his wife Sandra of Auburn, and grandchildren Brett and Lara Hine, Jennifer and Nicholas Shostak, Evan, Erica, and Annie Hazelton.

The family would like to thank the caring staff at the Rumford Community Hospital for their exceptional personal care and attention.

Friends and family are invited to sign the online guest book and share memories with the family at www.meaderandson.com.

Funeral services will be held at 12 Noon on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015 at the United Baptist Church of Peru. A comfort meal will follow.

LLOYD BILLINGS

Lloyd A. Billings, Sr., 88, of Milton Township passed away on Tuesday,

Dec. 28 at his home with his loving family by his side. He was born in Milton Plantation on Oct. 14, 1926 the son of Jairus S. and Jennie M. Eastman Billings. He married Beverly May Fitts on Jan. 8, 1947. They raised 15 children together before her passing on May 5, 2012. Lloyd had been a truck driver all of his life.

He is survived by his children, Elaine Moore and husband David of West Townsend, Mass., Zelma Roundy of Whitehouse, Tenn., David Billings and Marge Masterman of Otisfield, Gail Trundy and husband Jim of Hebron, Pamela House and husband Thomas of Bryant Pond, Bonnie Hall and husband Thomas of Oxford, Janet Sessions and husband Sumner of Norway, Garry Billings and wife Lynne of Milton Township, June Jacobson and husband Don of Harrison, Wanda Ridley of South Paris, Jacqueline Young and husband Glen of South Paris, Lloyd Billings, Jr. and wife Sue of Milton Township, Raymond Billings and wife Kristine of Brookline, NH., Michael Billings of Rumford and Allison Bellegrade and husband Bruce of Londonderry, NH.; 43 grandchildren; 48 great grandchildren; 4 great great grandchildren; a sister, Luna Ackers of Bethel; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife Beverly; a brother, Gerald Billings and his wife Irene; a sister Ola Miele and her husband Emile; and a son-in-

law Arthur Roundy. Funeral services were held Dec. 27 at the South Paris Baptist Church, South Paris.



NORMA COLBY

Norma Bessey Colby passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family at her home "The Balky Bess Ranch" in Buckfield on Dec. 24, 2014. She was born in Gardiner on March 7, 1932, the daughter of the late Marion (Waterman) Bessey and Gerald Heald Bessey. She graduated from Buckfield High School in 1950 and the University of Maine in 1954. Norma married Earle Colby on Sept. 2, 1955. They divorced in 1977.

She worked at the Southern California Gas Co. in Hollywood, Calif. from 1954 to 1955. She then worked at the most important job of her career, raising her two daughters. She was a teacher at Buckfield High School from 1962 to 1974. In 1977 she joined her parents at the Bessey Insurance Agency, taking over completely in the fall of 1978. In 1997 she semi-retired spending time in Brandon, Fla. during the winter months and continuing to work part time in the agency the rest of the year.

Norma was a member of the Congregational Church of East Sumner. Arrangements by Cliff Gray Cremation & Funeral Service, 60 Andrews Road, Bryant Pond.

Funeral services will be held at the East Sumner Congregational Church on Saturday Jan. 3, 2015 at 11 a.m. with the Pastors Howard MacMullen and Kathy Saarinen officiating. Burial will be in the family lot at Damon Cemetery, Buckfield.

The family would like to give special thanks to Dr. Medd and his office and the Beacon Hospice, especially Jessica. The family suggests memorials in Norma's memory be sent to the Norma Colby Memorial Fund, East Sumner Congregational Church, 50 Main Street, Sumner, Maine 04292.

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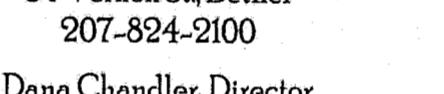
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